

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY:
Shannon Knall
Chapter Advocacy Chair
Autism Speaks, Connecticut
connecticutcac@autismspeaks.org
860-573-7600

301

Kimberly Lombardo
klombardo6@att.net

My Name is Kim Lombardo Im the mom of 4 children my triplets were born August 9th 1997 at 30 weeks and 5 days. I knew as I watched them grow up after several months of going to the hospital and leaving without them and then getting to take one at a time home. I knew over time there were things that were wrong but the system for me was broken.

I called in birth to three who at the time may not have been versed in the type of autism my boys had but one was a toe walker and things but I was told he was just a little slower and would catch up and my other son who didnt want to sit up even at almost a year I was told he was lazy.

It took many years and a lot of talking to people to get my children what they needed my triplets will be 12 soon and its been 3 years since they were diagnosed with asbergers syndrome.

My daughter was just diagnosed with NLD so to say the least my hands are full and I have an almost 4 year old who I now watch like a hawk for anything that may be wrong with her because so many people wouldnt listen to me.
Treatments are expensive testing is expensive.

My son Ian I had to take him to a doctor that my Insurance company wouldnt pay for because he was out of network he was a specialist in the area of my sons problems and I wanted him tested by someone who could ourright know if this is the issue he has without going to one doctor and have him say I think its asbergers but Im not sure.
It took me almost 3 years to pay the doctor back because of all the other medications and things I have to pay for for my children. On top of the autism there is medications for adhd and worry medications as I call it and natural herbs to help with sleep at night and its very costly. My Insurance will only pay so much and Im out of work right now so the burden falls to my husband who works 2 jobs and still doesnt bring home enough for us to get what we need. I work Perdiem right now to supplement till I find something more.
We need coverage out there that pays everything our children need.

We need help we need it now our kids are not being service properly in the schools they are overworked, overwhelmed and the teachers are not trained properly to handle our kids and I have had more fights with teachers telling me your child is so bright if he would

just apply himself. I said if he didnt have autism we wouldnt have these problems but hes doing the best he can.

The schools cant do a lot they do what they can. I cant afford out of pocket resources that our children desperately need. Help us help me and all the other families out there hurting and suffering in silence because there is no one listening to us .

Please help us get the funding thats needed for research and health care and things that our children need as they grow older they need more they have to cover more there needs to be special programs just for our children and families please help us.

Thank You,

Kimberly Lombardo

Mom of Barbara, Peter, Ian, Lizzy

Two who have autism, one learning disabled and one who is just Lizzy